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Serial No. 10/650,237

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the present amendment. Claims 1-12, 14-16, 18-30, and 32-33 are pending. Claims 4 and 22 have been withdrawn and claims 15, 16, and 18 are allowed.

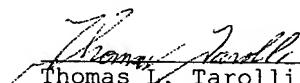
Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11, 19-21, 23-25, 29, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 6,851,705 issued to Young et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Attached to this amendment is a certified copy of an English translation of applicant's patent application filed in Germany on September 3, 2002, which perfects the priority date of the application. Accordingly, the present application is entitled to the priority date of its German application. Therefore, U.S. patent No. 6,851,705 issued to Young et al. filed on November 18, 2002, which is after the applicant's filing date of September 3, 2002, does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Thus, the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 11, 19-21, 23-25, 29, and 34 and objection to claims 8-10, 12, 14, 26-28, 30, 32, and 33 should be withdrawn. Therefore, claims 1-3, 5-12, 14, 19-21, 23-30, 32-34 are allowable.

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In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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